



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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23 SEPTEMBER 1966

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. South Vietnam

The constituent assembly, scheduled to convene next week, will not face completely smooth sailing.

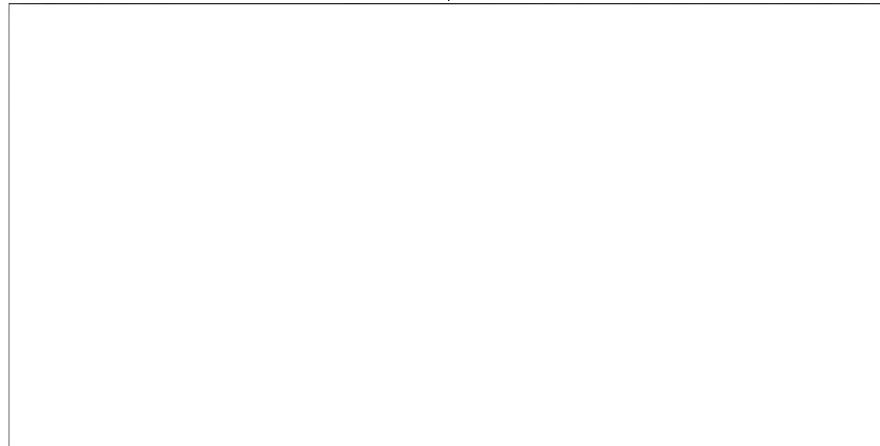
One thorny problem will be the election of its president. The assembly may be unable to agree on any of the five well-known politicians who now appear to be the chief candidates. In this case, regional differences among the delegates could produce a bitter struggle or even a stalemate. The generals might then have to settle the matter.

Secondly, there is the possibility that the assembly may challenge the charter article which gives the present military government veto power over any draft constitution passed by less than a two-thirds vote. A formal discussion of this issue by the assembly would surely antagonize the directorate.

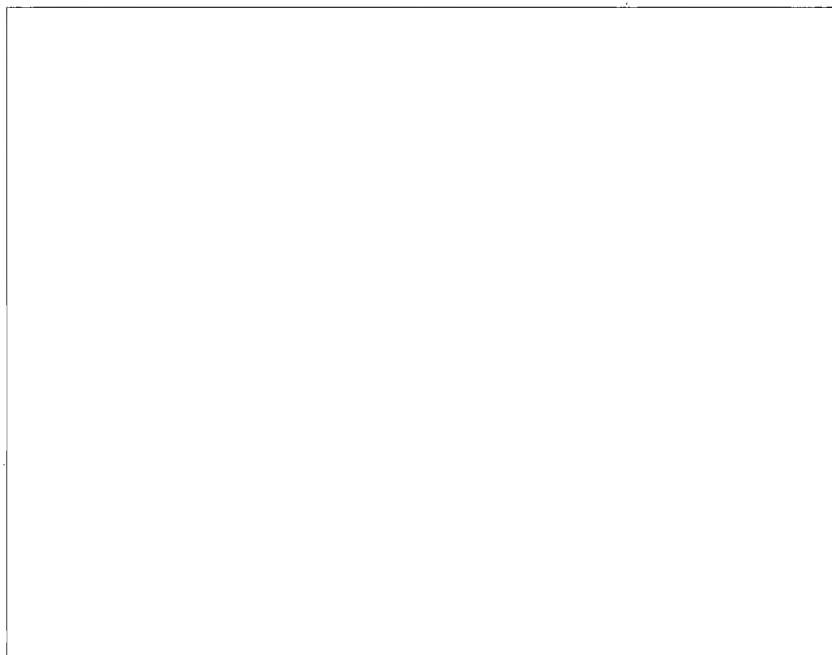
Incidentally, the assembly is convening a day later than originally scheduled because an astrologer pointed out that the original day would not be favorable.

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2. France



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3. Soviet Union**4. West Germany**

Chancellor Erhard is suffering from bureaucratic as well as parliamentary harassment. He was to address a meeting of the civil servants' association yesterday but walked out when the association's president delivered a slashing attack on the government for failure to improve civil service pay and benefits. Erhard's departure was accompanied by scattered catcalls.

Although the chancellor's political backers continue to rally round him, he will be under heavy pressure to reorganize the cabinet soon after his return from Washington--whether or not the mission is regarded as a success.

5. Ethiopia

Emperor Haile Selassie intends to press the US for material and moral support of Ethiopian claims to French Somaliland. In a vague and incoherent talk with our ambassador in Addis Ababa, the Emperor threw out veiled hints that he might look to Moscow for help if the US failed to come through. The Russians, meanwhile, are busily building up Somalia, which also contends it must have French Somaliland.

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6. Congo

Fighting broke out today in Kisan-gani (Stanleyville) between government and Katangan units there. Both sides are having logistic difficulties and this scrap could peter out for lack of ammunition, leaving another uneasy stale-mate.

Whoever started the row, it springs from Mobutu's long-threatened campaign to take strong measures against the Katangan rebels. If the Katangans find themselves seriously threatened by government forces, they can fade into the bush and head south for their homeland, where separatist tendencies continue to cause trouble for Mobutu.

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